



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Paul J. Hindrichs et al.

Application No.: 10/678,403 Confirmation No.: 1004

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For : SELF-EXPANDING EXTERIOR CONNECTORS FOR

CREATING ANASTOMOSES TO SMALL-DIAMETER

VESSELS AND METHODS OF USE

Group Art Unit: 3743

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, applicants hereby amend the above-identified patent applications as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.